

Whitehall



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Urban District of Mold,

For the Year 1938.

J. H. Edwards, Ltd., Printers, Grosvenor St., Mold.



Medical Officer's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Mold Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year ending
December 31st, 1938.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Apart from a Tinplate works employing about 100,
Mold is the centre of an Agricultural district.

Many inhabitants are employed in the surround-
ing coal and lead mines, quarries, silk and iron works,
most however have been working short time.

The Tinplate works were closed down for many
months, causing severe unemployment.

Area (in Acres)—1160.

Population (estimated to middle of 1938)—5716.

Number of Inhabited houses—1636.

Rateable Value—£34,529.

Sum represented by 1d. Rate—£131.

VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	..	..	121	62	59	Birth Rate per 1000 of es- timated population 21·1
Legitimate	..	..		60	57	
Illegitimate	..	..		2	2	
Still Births	..	..	13	8	5	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 23·4
Legitimate	..	..		7	4	
Illegitimate	..	..		1	1	
Deaths	..	..	62	37	25	Death Rate per 1000 esti- mated population 10·8

Deaths from

Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.

Other Puerperal causes—Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under 1 year of age :

	Rate.
All Infants per 1000 live births	74.
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	74.
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	1.22
„ Measles	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	Nil
„ Diarrœa (under 2 years)	Nil

For England and Wales the birth rate was 15.1, and the death rate 11.6 for the year 1938.

DEATHS.

All Causes		M.	F.
	Total ...	37	25
Diphtheria ... ..	...		2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	2	
Cancer ... ..	...	4	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	...	4	6
Heart Diseases ... ..	...	5	3
Other Circulatory diseases	...	4	3
Bronchitis ... ..	...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	3	3
Appendicitis ... ..	...	2	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	2	
Congenital debility and Premature birth	...	3	
Senility ... ..	...	2	1
Other Violence ... ..	...	2	
Other defined diseases	...	3	2

No.	Date.	Place taken.	Sent to	Type of Analysis	Report.	Remarks.
4	12/5/38	Tap at Glanyrafon School (Cookery Centre)	Royal Infirmary, Chester	Chemical	<p>Colour of Water viewed in two feet glass tube equivalent to CLEAR</p> <p>Total Solids (Dried at 120°C) 10 parts per 100,000</p> <p>Combined Chlorine 1.3 parts per 100,000</p> <p>Na Cl 2.08 do.</p> <p>Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) Nil do.</p> <p>Nitrous " Nil do.</p> <p>Ammoniacal Nitrogen</p> <p>Ammonia—Very faint trace</p> <p>Albuminoid Nitrogen</p> <p>Ammonia—0.012 parts per 100,000</p> <p>Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C 0.1 parts per 100,000</p> <p>Lead, Copper or Iron—Faint trace of Iron</p> <p>Temp. Hardness—(Ca CO₃) 0.7 parts per 100,000</p> <p>Permanent Hardness—4.5 parts per 100,000</p> <p>Total Hardness—5.2 parts per 100,000</p>	This is a very good water

Details of Water Samples taken by Mold Gas and Water Company.

No.	Date.	Place taken.	Sent to.	Type of Analysis.	Report.	Remarks.
1	15/7/38	Glanyrafon School (Cookery Centre). Tap on Main	H. Low, Esq., Public Analyst, Chester	Chemical	<p>In parts per 100,000:—</p> <p>Total solids in solution .. 7.0</p> <p>Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites .. Nil</p> <p>Chlorine in Chlorides .. 1.2</p> <p>Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80°F .. 0.108</p> <p>Free and Saline Ammonia .. Nil</p> <p>Albuminoid Ammonia .. 0.008</p> <p>Lead, Copper Zinc .. Nil</p> <p>Total Hardness .. 1.6 Deg (Clark)</p>	Judged by the above analysis this water is satisfactory, but the bacteriological results show that some improvement in the quality of the water is desirable
2	15/7/38	Do.	Do.	Bacteriological	<p>Visible colonies on Gelatine at 20°C in 3 days—100 per c.c.</p> <p>Visible colonies on Agar at 37.5°C in 2 days—22 per c.c.</p> <p>B. Coli—Present in 10 c.c.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Absent in 1 c.c.</p>	The presence of B. Coli in 10 c.c. is not satisfactory. Absence of B. Coli in 50 c.c. is desirable.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extensions to sewers were undertaken during the year, but the state of the Disposal Works has received the consideration of the Council. Consulting Engineers were called in and a scheme for the modernization and extension of the Works is, at the time of writing, awaiting a Public Enquiry. It has been alleged by the Dee Fishery authorities that pollution of the river has caused mortality of fish. Previous reports and the above fact have weighed with the Council in embarking on this scheme.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The above remarks apply under this heading as well. Otherwise no serious pollution has been noted.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Four houses have been connected to the sewerage system and the cesspools abolished. The number of cesspools, in portions of the area where the sewer is available, is not large and the position is being improved by informal action.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Complaints re defects in collecting system are rare. The costs from the 1st April, 1938 to 31st March, 1939, are as follows :—

Total cost (Collection and Disposal) ...	£638/14/2
Number of loads	1280
Average weight per load	35cwts.

Aggregate Weight	...	...	2240 tons.
Total cost per load	...	...	9.98 shills.
Cost per ton	...	...	5.70 shills.
Population	...	...	5716
Total cost per head	...	...	2.23 shills.
Total cost per 1,000 houses	...	...	£399/19/0

Cost of Disposal Only (Included above) :—

Total Cost	...	...	...	...	£136/0/1
Cost per load	...	...	...	...	2.125 shills.
Cost per ton	...	...	...	...	1.214 shills.
Cost per head	...	...	...	...	5.70 pence
Cost per 1,000 houses	...	...	...	...	£85/0/0

It will be seen that the figures compare very closely with those of last year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Some progress has been made, compared with last year, on house to house inspection work for repair purposes as opposed to Clearance and Demolition Orders. The aggregate figures are less than last year but this is accounted for by the fact that the bulk of last year's figures were Slum Clearance.

Details of Inspections.

To drainage complaints or defects	...	13
Stables and piggeries	...	1
Offensive trades	...	1
Temporary dwellings	...	2
Factories	...	1
Workshops	...	1

Bakehouses	...	...	...	3
Public conveniences	...	...	...	3
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	4
Rats and mice complaints	...	...	...	5
Schools	...	...	...	3
Shops	...	...	...	11
Housing	...	...	...	39
Verminous premises	...	...	...	4
Infectious diseases and disinfection	...	...	...	55
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	66
Cowsheds and dairies	...	...	...	4
Sampling (water and milk)	...	...	...	8
Overcrowding	...	...	...	413

Total ... 637

Informal Notices served—

Public Health Acts	...	22	Complied	14
Housing Acts	...	12	Complied	Nil

Statutory Notices served—

Public Health Acts	...	2	Complied	1
Housing Acts	...	8	„	7

Work done after Informal Notices—

Defective gutters repaired or renewed	...	1
Drainage defects attended to	...	7
Roofs repaired	...	2
Internal floors repaired	...	1
Cesspools abolished and connections to sewer	...	4
Sanitary convenience provided for factory		1
„ „ „ house		1
Sanitary convenience rebuilt	...	1
Sinks and internal water supply fixed	...	2

Work done after Statutory Notice—

New cooking ranges provided	...	2
Sanitary fittings repaired	... ..	3
Improved ventilation to food stores	...	6
Yard floors relaid	... ..	5
Internal floors relaid	... ..	5
Dampness attended to	... ..	5
Plaster defects made good	... ..	3
Roofs repaired	... ..	2
Washing accommodation installed or repaired	... ..	3

N.B.—The above lists do not include visits
or repairs to Council Houses.

SHOPS.

A commencement was made during the year on the compilation of a register under the 1934 Act. It is hoped to continue and complete the work during the year 1939.

CAMPING SITES.

No sites in this area are used or licensed for the purpose of camping.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no Swimming Baths in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. (a) No Council houses found to be infested.
- (b) At least 28 known to be infested, but no action taken since majority are on the list for demolition.
1. See 1 (b) above.
3. H.C.N. fumigation of effects of tenants in vans before delivery to new estates.
4. Work done by Contractors.
5. Papering of walls of new houses discouraged.

SCHOOLS (Elementary).

The Elementary Schools in the area were disinfected during the year owing to an epidemic of Diphtheria.

Conveniences and cleanliness satisfactory.

Section D.—HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 45
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 50
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included in sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. 36
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 38

- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 7
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 19
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.
- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or their officers ... 2
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
- (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 8
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners ... 7
- (b) By L.A. in default of Owners ... Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By L.A. in default of owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV (Overcrowding).

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 50

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 55

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 348

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 12
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 74
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the L.A. have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report :—

Some abatement could be effected by exchange of houses in the Council Estates.

- (f) Total number of Certificates of Permitted Number issued up to end of year ... 60

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Seven samples of milk for bacteriological examination were taken during the year, including one repeat sample. Standard of cleanliness disclosed thereby was satisfactory. There are only two Accredited producers in the area. Routine visits to premises disclosed no serious defects.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The number of visits to slaughterhouses and shops this year shews some slight improvement on last year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ..	20	17	—	71	36
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	2
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ..	40%	—	—	—	5·5%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1
% of the number inspected affected with T.B. ..	—	—	—	—	2·78%

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Age Periods.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total.
Disease.													
Scarlet Fever ..		1	3	1	1	6		2	3				17
Diphtheria ..	1	2	5	5	3	27	5	3	3				54
Pneumonia ..		1			1			1	1		1	1	6

	Sent to Hospital.	Deaths.	Rate.
Scarlet Fever ..	1	—	2.97
Diphtheria ..	14	2	9.44
Pneumonia ..		6	1.04

The end of the Diphtheria epidemic, which affected the country in the preceding year, seems to have reached Mold, and was acute for 3 months from January to March, gradually subsiding by June. The greatest number of cases were between the ages of 5 and 10 years. 14 cases were sent to Hospital, and more might have gone, had there been accommodation. Two deaths occurred. All schools in the town were closed and sanitary precautions taken.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

This is administered by the County Council.





